

REPRESENTATIVE DRIEHAUS ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR RURAL ENERGY LENDING PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today announced that he will cosponsor the Rural Energy Savings Program Act (HR 4785), which would authorize low-interest loans to rural electric cooperatives for energy efficiency projects. The loan program would be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to help rural customers reduce energy costs.

“Energy efficiency programs help to reduce emissions and cut energy costs for consumers, and we need to ensure that rural communities have access to resources needed for efficiency projects. I’m proud to support this legislation, which would provide rural electric co-ops with the funding they need to carry out efficiency improvements,” said Rep. Driehaus.

The Rural Energy Savings Program Act would establish a \$4.9 billion loan program to be administered by RUS. RUS would issue ten-year, zero-interest loans to individual co-ops or state-based groups of co-ops, which would in turn lend to consumers and businesses for efficiency projects. Typical consumer loans would be \$1,500 to \$7,000 and would cover sealing, insulation, HVAC systems, boilers, roofs, and other improvements that would result in energy savings.

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